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FAX COVER LETTER

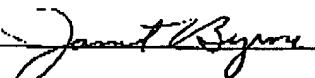
December 15, 2005

TO: Examiner B. Van Doren
COMPANY: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office – Art Unit 3623
PHONE: 571.272.6737
FAX: 571.273.8300

FROM: David A. Prange
DIRECT DIAL: (612) 607-7263
EMAIL: DPrange@oppenheimer.com
RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/444,889
Attorney Docket No.: 60021-336701

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Fee Transmittal are being facsimile transmitted to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patent, on the date listed below.



Janet Byrne

12-15-2005

Date

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PTO/SB/30 (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	09/444,889
	Filing date	November 22, 1999
	First Named Inventor	Michael G. Mikurak
	Art Unit	3623
	Examiner Name	B. Van Doren
	Attorney Docket Number	60021-336701

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on November 15, 2005.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
- b. ☐ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment(s)/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____ and Returned Postcard.

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103@ for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____.

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e). 12/16/2005 HDEHES1 00000028 501901 09444889
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17). 01 FC:1801 790.00 DA
- iii. ☐ Other _____.
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed.
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	David A. Prange	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	56,872
Signature		Date:	December 15, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

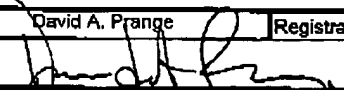
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Janet Byrne	Date:	December 15, 2005
Signature			

DEC 15 2005

FEE TRANSMITTAL		Complete if Known	
for FY 2005 <i>Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Claims Small Entity		Application Number	09/444,889
		Filing Date	November 22, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Michael G. Mikurak
		Examiner Name	B. Van Doren
		Group Art Unit	3623
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT		Attorney Docket No.:	60021-336701
			\$790.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT		FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																				
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorized to charge indicated fees or credit Deposit Acct No. 50-1901 Name: Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Any Add'l Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17		4. ADDITIONAL FEES <table style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Large Entity Fee Code</th> <th>Large Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Small Entity Fee Code</th> <th>Small Entity Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Description</th> <th>Fee Paid</th> </tr> </thead> </table>				Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid																											
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3. Application Size Fee (Utility) If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.18(s)																																						
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		SUBTOTAL (4) \$790.00																																				

SUBMITTED BY		Complete (if applicable)	
Name	David A. Prange	Registration No.:	56,872
Signature		Telephone:	612-607-7263
		Date:	December 15, 2005

*Includes: Filing fee + Examination fee + Search fee